and individuals engaged in this preservation and promotion of tribals/folk arts and culture. The Central Institute of Indian Languages under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) has worked on tribal languges in Orissa, namely Bhumij, Ho, Gutob and Kuvi and has produced the following materials:—

(i) Kuvi Grammer

(ii) Kuvi Primer and Copy Book

(iii) Kuvi-Oriya Dictionary

(iv) Kuvi Folk Literature and

(v) Gutob Gramer and Dictionery (under preparation)

3. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Research and Training of this ministry, grants are given to the Tribal Research Institutes on 50:50 basis by both State and Centre. One of the activities of the TRIs is preservation of tribal art and culture by depicting tribal artefacts in the museum. Government of Orissa has set up a TRI during 1953-54, which has got a museum with rich tribal artifacts. Government of Orissa has also set up a separate State-level museum in which a separate gallery is atached to it having a good collection of tribal artefacts, especially dresses, ornaments, different agricultural and musical instruments etc., which are being used by various tribal communities in the State.

Production of Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh

*108. SHRI N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh in the years 1999 and 2000 (so far)

(b) what is the prevailing price and how does it compare with the price of last years;

(c) whether STC/Tobacco Board has entered the market and procured tobacco at a reasonable minimum support price; and

(d) if so, what is the quantity procured by these agencies and at what price?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Production of FCV tobacco in Andhra Pradesh during 1999 and 2000 was 149.60 M.Kgs. and 138.65 M.Kgs. respectively.

(b) The average prevailing price on the *104th* day of the tobacco auction in Andhra Pradesh during 2000 i.e. on 25.7.2000 is Rs. 34.33 per kilogram as agaisnt Rs. 38.69 per kilogram on the corresponding day last year.

(c) STC has entered the market to procure only straight grades at prices not below 1999 average prices. Tobacco Board has entered the market to procure only low grades at Minimum Support Price.

(d) STC has procured 5.62 M.Kgs. of straight grades of FCV tobacco at an average price of Rs. 37.74 per kilogram and Tobacco Board has purchased 0.024 M.Kgs. of low grade tobacco at an average price of Rs. 12.18 per kilogram as on 25.7.2000.]

Use of CNG as Environment-Friendly Fuel

*109. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CNG is an environment-freindly fuel and existing petrol vehicles can use it after using a conversion kit costing Rs. 35,000 approximately;

(b) if so, the steps taken to promote the use of the said kit;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce subsidy to meet the capital expenditure involved;

(d) whether any study has been conducted to know the benefits of this kit to the economy of the country; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) It is true that the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is environment—friendly fuel. The cost of conversion kit depends upon the model of the car as well as the type of engine. A concessional rate of custom duty is already being granted on import of CNG kits. There is no proposal, at present, with this Ministry to indroduce any subsidy to meet capital expenditure involved in the conversion kits.

(d) and (e) As the conversion kits have come into use only recently, it is too early to quantify their benefits to the economy of the country.